

# School Administrative District Eight

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Vinalhaven, ME 04863

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Principal Fax: (207) 863-2035  
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June 12, 2008

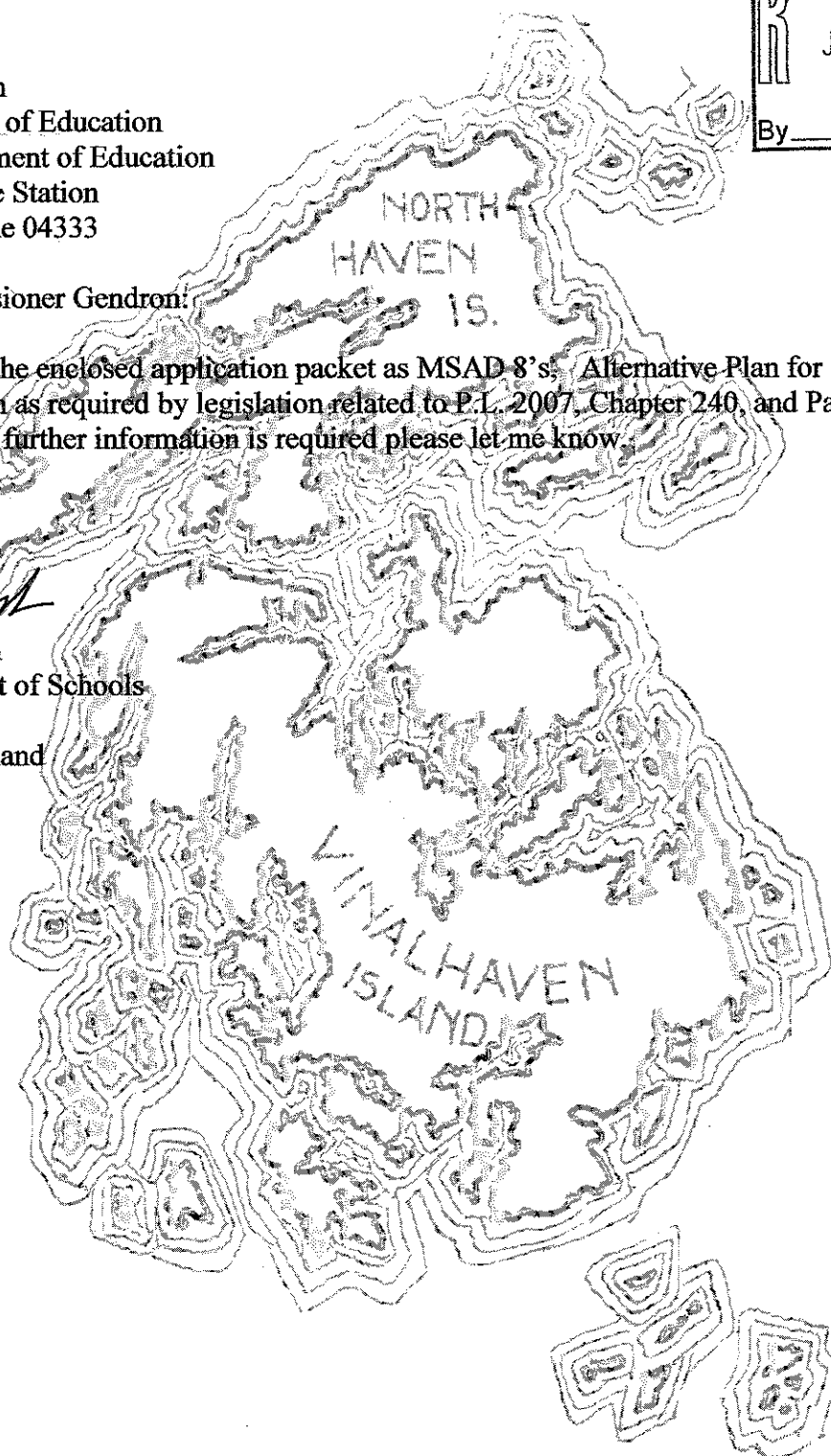
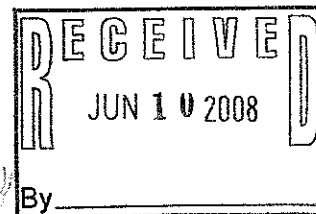
Susan Gendron  
Commissioner of Education  
Maine Department of Education  
23 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Commissioner Gendron:

Please accept the enclosed application packet as MSAD 8's Alternative Plan for Reorganization as required by legislation related to P.L. 2007, Chapter 240, and Part XXXX. If any further information is required please let me know.

Sincerely,

  
George Joseph  
Superintendent of Schools  
SAD 8  
Vinalhaven Island



# ALTERNATIVE PLAN SUBMITTAL SHEET

School Administrative Unit Submitting Alternative Plan:

- SAD 8 Vinalhaven

Contact Information:

Name: George Joseph  
Address: 22 Arcola Lane  
Vinalhaven, Maine 04863  

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Telephone: 207 863-4800  
email: gjoseph@vinalhavenschool.org

Date Plan Submitted by SAU: June 12, 2008

**The intent to submit an alternative plan has been approved by the Commissioner in the approval of the Notice of Intent?**

☒ YES ☐ NO

(If NO, please explain.)

## Alternative Plan Contents

1. Submittal Sheet
2. Alternative Plan Cover Sheet
3. Exceptions to 2,500 minimum check sheet
4. Exhibit A - Alternative Plan Financial Review
5. Exhibit B- Exceptions to 2,500 minimum, Documentation
6. Exhibit C- Alternative Plan Budget Information
  - a. System Administration
  - b. Operation & Maintenance of Facilities
  - c. Special Education
  - d. Transportation
7. FY 09 Assurances, Documentation
8. Additional Efficiency Goals
9. Commissioner Letters

## Alternative Plan Cover Sheet

(Please attach Alternative Plan as Exhibit A)

| Plan Requirements  |                                     |                                     |                          |                              |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Item   | Complete                            | In Progress                         | Not Yet Started          | Need Assistance <sup>1</sup> |
| Plan addresses how the SAU will reorganize administrative functions, duties and noninstructional personnel so that projected expenditures of RSU in fiscal 2008-2009 for the following areas will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program. |                                     |                                     |                          |                              |
| <b>system administration</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| <b>transportation</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| <b>special education</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| <b>facilities and maintenance</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| Plan addresses how cost savings will be achieved in fiscal 2008-2009 for the above four areas.   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| Parameters for Plan Development  |                                     |                                     |                          |                              |
| Enrollment meets requirements (2,500 except where circumstances justify an exception)  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| When viewed in conjunction with surrounding proposed units, may not result in one or more municipalities being denied the option to join an RSU  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| Includes at least one publicly supported high school   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| Consistent with policies set forth in section 1451   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| No displacement of teachers  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| No displacement of students  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| No closures of schools existing or operating during school year immediately preceding reorganization, except as permitted under section 1512   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| Collaborative Agreements   |                                     |                                     |                          |                              |
|  |                                     | Yes                                 | No                       |                              |
| Does your plan currently include information/documentation on collaborative agreements?<br>(not required, but encouraged)  |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |                              |

<sup>1</sup> Please explain what assistance you need to complete this portion of your plan, and state from whom you need assistance, on the next page.

**Actual number of students for which the SAU is fiscally responsible: 206**

| Exception                  | Exception Claimed in Plan           | Documentation Provided?<br>(Please attach as Exhibit B) |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
|                            |                                     | Yes   | No                                  |
| Geography                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Demographics               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Economics                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Transportation             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Population Density         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other Unique Circumstances | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

### Assistance Needs –

Please use this section to describe your needs for assistance and from whom you need assistance.

| Law Reference/Required Element | Explanation of your assistance need | Assistance needed from whom? |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
|                                |                                     |                              |
|                                |                                     |                              |
|                                |                                     |                              |
|                                |                                     |                              |
|                                |                                     |                              |

**Exhibit A**

**Maine Department of Education  
Alternative Plan Financial Review**

**School Administrative Unit:** MSAD 8

**1. 100% Essential Programs and Services**

| <u>10/1/2006<br/>Enrollment</u> | <u>Required<br/>Local</u> | <u>Additional<br/>Local</u> | <u>ED 281<br/>Line 60<br/>Subsidy</u> | <u>Taxes and<br/>Subsidy</u> | <u>100% EPS</u> | <u>Amount<br/>Over (Under)<br/>EPS</u> | <u>Percent<br/>Over (Under)<br/>EPS</u> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|--|---|
| 220.90                          | \$ 1,666,187              | \$ 331,112                  | \$ 932,909                            | \$ 2,930,208                 | \$ 2,673,474    | \$ 256,734                             | 9.60%                                   |

**2. System Administration**

| <u>FY '08<br/>Budget*</u> | <u>K - 8</u> | <u>Assessment<br/>9 - 12</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Less<br/>Revenues</u> | <u>Amount<br/>Over (Under)<br/>Assessment</u> | <u>Percent<br/>Over (Under)<br/>Assessment</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| \$ 197,044                | \$ 53,455    | \$ 25,632                    | \$ 79,087    | \$ -                     | \$ 117,957                                    | 149.15%  |

**Estimated 2008-09 100% EPS Allocation based on student counts used for 2007-08 funding =** **\$ 45,064**

**3. Operations and Maintenance of Facilities**

| <u>FY '08<br/>Budget*</u> | <u>K - 8</u> | <u>Assessment<br/>9 - 12</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Less<br/>Revenues</u> | <u>Amount<br/>Over (Under)<br/>Assessment</u> | <u>Percent<br/>Over (Under)<br/>Assessment</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| \$ 341,702                | \$ 142,348   | \$ 81,792                    | \$ 224,140   | \$ -                     | \$ 117,561                                    | 52.45%   |

**Estimated 2008-09 100% EPS Allocation based on student counts used for 2007-08 funding =** **\$ 219,804**

**4. Special Education**

| <u>FY '08<br/>Budget*</u> | <u>Assessment</u> | <u>Less<br/>Revenues</u> | <u>Amount<br/>Over (Under)<br/>Assessment</u> | <u>Percent<br/>Over (Under)<br/>Assessment</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| \$ 226,440                | \$ 210,836        | \$ 10,000                | \$ 5,604                                      | 2.66%  |

**Estimated 2008-09 100% EPS Allocation based on student counts used for 2007-08 funding =** **Not Available**

**5. Transportation**

| <u>FY '08<br/>Budget*</u> | <u>Assessment</u> | <u>Less<br/>Revenues</u> | <u>Amount<br/>Over (Under)<br/>Assessment</u> | <u>Percent<br/>Over (Under)<br/>Assessment</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| \$ 33,666                 | \$ 21,557         | \$ -                     | \$ 12,109                                     | 56.17%   |

**Estimated 2008-09 100% EPS Allocation based on student counts used for 2007-08 funding =** **\$ 20,479**

**\*FY '08 Budget information from MEDMS Financial Reporting.**

SAD 8 Vinalhaven  
Alternative Plan

Exhibit B

Exceptions to 2,500 Minimum

Geography and Other Unique Circumstances

Because of our geographic location and unique circumstances SAD 8 “Vinalhaven” is submitting an Alternative Plan as an “Off Shore Island”.

Documentation:

**PART XXXX**

**Sec. XXXX-1. 20-A MRSA §1, sub-§20-A** is enacted to read:

**SUBCHAPTER 2**  
**FORMATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT**

B. In order for the plan to be approved by the commissioner, the governing bodies of school administrative units shall work within the following parameters.

(1) The proposed regional school unit must serve not fewer than 2,500 students, except where circumstances relating to the following factors justify an exception:

When circumstances justify an exception to the size requirement of 2,500 students, the unit must serve as close to 2,500 students as possible and in no case, except for coastal islands and schools operated by tribal school committees, may it serve fewer than 1,200 students

SAD 8 Vinalhaven  
Alternative Plan

Exhibit C: System Administration

|                         | MEDMS<br>Reporting | Budget    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
|                         | FY08               | FY09      |
| System Administration   | \$197,044          | \$179,333 |
| Supt Office:            |                    |           |
| Superintendent Salary   | \$ 82,115          | \$ 57,564 |
| Benefits                | \$ 13,652          | \$ 13,094 |
| Prof .Development       | \$ 2,000           | \$ 500    |
| Supplies                | \$ 200             | \$ 200    |
| Misc.                   | \$ 1,500           | \$ 1,500  |
| Lodging                 | \$ 7,800           | \$ 7,800  |
| Central Services:       |                    |           |
| Bus. Staff Salaries     | \$ 39,574          | \$52,010  |
| Benefits                | \$ 3,277           | \$ 8,971  |
| Purchase Prof. Services | \$ 5,000           | \$ 5,000  |
| Other Purchased Ser.    | \$ 7,500           | \$ 7,500  |
| Software                | \$ 2,570           | \$ 2,570  |
| Prof. Development       | \$ 500             | \$ 1,750  |
| Supplies                | \$ 1,000           | \$ 9,50   |
| Misc.                   | \$ 35              | \$ 35     |
| School Board:           |                    |           |
| Stipends                | \$ 2,100           | \$ 2,100  |
| Benefits                | \$ 161             | \$ 179    |
| Purchase Prof Services  | \$ 11,850          | \$ 11,250 |
| Other Purchased Ser.    | \$ 22,844          | \$ 8,028  |
| Board Travel            | \$ 1,500           | \$ 1,500  |
| Misc.                   | \$ 1,524           | \$ 1,524  |



## System Administration: Savings

Vinalhaven has restructured the job responsibilities of the superintendent's office and central office. The superintendent's position has been reduced 25% with a saving in this superintendent salary of \$ 24,551. This has resulted in a net saving of \$17,711 in System Administration or 8.9 % decrease.

SAD 8 Vinalhaven  
Alternative Plan

Exhibit C: Operation & Maintenance of Facilities

|                             | MEDMS<br>Reporting | Budget     |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------|
|                             | FY08               | FY09       |
| Oper.& Maint. of Facilities | \$341,702          | \$361,323  |
| Operational Maintenance:    |                    |            |
| Contacted services          | \$ 6,000           | \$ 9,116   |
| Other Purchased Ser.        | \$ 17,000          | \$ 18,292  |
| Energy                      | \$ 131,120         | \$ 151,120 |
| Equipment                   | \$ 3,758           | \$ 2,500   |
| Custodial:                  |                    |            |
| Salaries                    | \$ 59,758          | \$ 64,449  |
| Benefits                    | \$ 32,068          | \$ 35,871  |
| Supplies                    | \$ 9,000           | \$ 10,640  |
| Maintenance:                |                    |            |
| Salaries                    | \$ 21,772          | \$ 22,343  |
| Benefits                    | \$ 1,666           | \$ 2,565   |
| Purchase Prof. Ser.         | \$ 13,000          | \$ 15,600  |
| Purchase Property Ser.      | \$ 30,660          | \$ 10,252  |
| Repair/Maint. Ser.          | \$ 11,000          | \$ 12,000  |
| Supplies                    | \$ 4,000           | \$ 6,175   |
| Prof. Development.          | \$ 400             | \$ 400     |

## Facilities and Maintenance Savings: \$0

### Facilities and Maintenance:

- Because of our Island location there is very little choice about purchasing of maintenance services and heating oil.
- Fuel oil is bid out to the only available island sources. However, we are not able to get a fixed price and purchase fuel oil at a set margin over the rack price. Consequently, our cost varies from week to week depending on the market price.
- Vinalhaven has negotiated service contracts with off island vendors for all of its major systems because the expertise needed to service our building systems are not available on the island. Usually, these service and maintenance calls require overnight trips , ferry cost , as well as additional labor cost.
- Vinalhaven is committed to proper maintenance of its facility and will continue to budget the dollars needed to maintain the school to assure that there is no deferred maintenance cost for future budgets.
- With increased energy cost we have actually budgeted around \$20,000 more in this function for FY 09 which is why our budget shows an increase of \$20,000.

SAD 8 Vinalhaven  
Alternative Plan

Exhibit C: Special Education

|                        | MEDMS<br>Reporting | Budget     |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------|
|                        | FY08               | FY09       |
| Special Education      | \$ 226,440         | \$ 263,791 |
| Instruction:           |                    |            |
| Salary                 | \$162,897          | \$ 155,422 |
| Benefits               | \$ 41,608          | \$ 44,500  |
| Purchase Prof. Ser.    | \$ 750             | \$ 39,240  |
| Out of District        | \$ 15,000          | \$ 15,000  |
| Supplies/Text/ Equip./ |                    |            |
| Tech./ Misc. & Other   | \$ 6,183           | \$ 9,629   |

Special Education Savings: \$0

Special Education

- Presently, Vinalhaven has two special education teachers and contracts for all other professional special education services; i.e. psychological services, physical therapy, and speech and OT services from off island specialist.
- In FY 09 Vinalhaven will enroll a special needs students in our kindergarten which will require multiple level of services which has increased our Purchase of Professional Services line to around \$39,000

SAD 8 Vinalhaven  
Alternative Plan

Exhibit C: Transportation

|                  | MEDMS<br>Reporting | Budget   |
|------------------|--------------------|----------|
|                  | FY08               | FY09     |
| Transportation   | \$33,666           | \$33,901 |
| Salaries         | \$ 12,323          | \$12,626 |
| Benefits         | \$ 943             | \$ 1,875 |
| Purchase Repairs | \$ 5,000           | \$ 5,000 |
| Purchase Trans   | \$ 4,950           | \$ 4,950 |
| Purchase Ferry   | \$ 2,500           | \$ 1,500 |
| Employee Travel  | \$ 200             | \$ 200   |
| Fleet Fuel       | \$ 7,500           | \$ 7,500 |
| Misc.            | \$ 250             | \$ 250   |

Transportation Savings: \$0

Transportation

Presently, Vinalhaven has one bus and contracts our entire off island transportation and service work with SAD 5. All of the savings associated with these decisions to use Rockland services have been previously credited to this function.

We will continue to utilize SAD 5 for our entire off island transportation and service work.

Collaborating with SAD 5 for these services has already allowed us to eliminate the need for a second bus and the additional expenses associated with owning a second bus.

Using SAD 5 services has also eliminated the expense of ferrying our bus to and from the mainland.

## FY 09 Assurances

P.L. 207, Chapter 240, Part XXXX-36(6)(F) that “ ... the projected expenditures in FY 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education , and facilities and maintenance will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program”

The Vinalhaven School, SAD 8 has thoroughly examined its educational needs and has evaluated its services and cost associated with doing business on Vinalhaven. The School Board and community are fully committed to offering a program of studies that meets the requirements of the Maine Learning Results as well as offering a well rounded educational opportunity for all of Vinalhaven children.

The projected expenditures in FY 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities and maintenance will not have an adverse impact on the instructional programs offered in SAD 8.

### **Additional Steps to Achieve Efficiency Goals:**

As part of a previously agreed upon collaborative agreement with the other off shore island schools Vinalhaven will continue to pursue further collaborative relationships as listed below.

### **MAINE ISLAND SCHOOL COLLABORATIVE**

Vinalhaven will participate, to the extent feasible, in the Maine Islands School Collaborative with the goal of sharing services, resources, and expertise to maintain and promote the excellence of island education. Vinalhaven will partner with these schools and the Island Institute to develop proposals for sharing services, such as:

- Fiscal management
- Technology and data processing
- Library services
- Insurance coverage
- Energy conservation and management
- Staff development
- Curriculum development
- Student testing and evaluation
- Low-incidence special education services
- Bulk purchasing of supplies
- Distance Learning
- Student inter-island programming

#### **Activities:**

1. Representatives from each of the participating islands will meet twice a year to discuss and review existing organizational structures.
2. Inter-Island professional development activities will be planned on an on-going basis.
3. On-going conversations and cooperative agreements with neighboring mainland school systems will be fostered & encouraged.



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON  
COMMISSIONER

December 14, 2007

George Joseph, Superintendent  
MSAD 8  
22 Arcola Lane  
Vinalhaven, ME 04863

Dear Superintendent Joseph:

Thank you for the Alternative Plan that you submitted on behalf of MSAD 8 on December 10, 2007 for Department review for compliance with the school reorganization law, P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX.

I recognize how much time, effort and thoughtful work is required to complete an alternative plan and appreciate the efforts made, to date, by all those involved.

Members of my staff and I have reviewed the submission and offer the comments and notes listed below to assist you in completing the plan. If you make any substantive change(s) to any part of the plan beyond those listed below, please be sure to note those on the Updated Alternative Plan Cover Sheet Checklist, along with notation of those items that have changed per the notes contained in this response.

**General Documentation (Submittal Sheet)**

- All information submitted as required.
- The actual number of students for which the proposed RSU was fiscally responsible as of October 1, 2006 was 206. I am making you aware of this as this is the enrollment number that will be used in determining Essential Programs and Services funding.

**Checklist/Plan Text Items**

Items Checked "Complete"

With respect to the items you checked as "complete", please note the following:



*\* Required Items*

Each alternative plan must provide projected expenditures in FY 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities and maintenance in accordance with P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX-36(6)(F). Please provide these projected expenditures; and please consider using the guidance offered in the Drummond Woodsum MacMahon workshop materials.

In Exhibit A, we have included a comparison of (A) the 2007-08 EPS allocations for the four categories of system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities and maintenance and (B) your unit's 2007-08 budget information (if available) for these four categories. Also included are estimated 2008-09 EPS allocations for system administration, transportation, and facilities and maintenance. I encourage you to review this information. NOTE: If the 2007-08 budget information is missing then it is likely that your unit has not submitted this information to the MEDMS Financial System; please see Administrative Letter # 20, dated 2/13/2007 for instructions.

Please address the requirement in P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX-36(6)(F) that "... the projected expenditures in FY 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities and maintenance will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program" by providing an assurance to that effect. Note: We will confirm this assurance against the information that was required to be submitted to the MEDMS Financial System in August, 2007.

A model for budgeting for system administration is available at [www.maine.gov/education/supportingschools/planning.html](http://www.maine.gov/education/supportingschools/planning.html).

The Department of Education will be issuing an RFP to procure routing software to be available statewide. It is the Department's intent to issue the RFP early in 2008 and have a contract signed with a vendor as soon thereafter as possible so that the software will be available to RSUs and municipalities as soon as possible. SAUs may begin to work with the system in FY 2008-2009 but will not be able to budget any cost savings until FY 2009-2010.

*\* Parameters*

- A. Please complete.
- B. Please complete.

We will review all items on the checklist again, upon your completion of the plan.

## SUBMISSION OF REVISIONS:

Please provide the additional materials to complete your plan by February 1, 2008. Please include:

- Any additional data required
- An updated Submittal Page
- An updated Cover Sheet Checklist
- A copy of this Response from the Commissioner.

I will respond no more than 14 days after the revisions/additional materials are refiled with the Department. As you are the contact person identified on the Submittal Sheet, this response is addressed to you but with the understanding that you will share it with your school administrative unit board members.

Finally, what I am reviewing for approval is a plan (or a submission, if the plan is incomplete) which is by its very nature prospective, with steps yet to be taken or finalized; and any review comments or approval given are in relation to the elements required under P.L. 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX but not the legality of all the activities proposed. Thus, I strongly recommend that you have your own legal advisor(s) review the details of any particular transaction proposed in your plan (particularly with respect to the disposition of property, to debt, and to employee contracts/relations) as you proceed, to ensure the legality of the steps you'll be taking to implement the plan. If that review leads to any substantive changes in any parts of your plan, please be sure to submit an amended plan to the Department for our review and our file.

Again, my sincere thanks for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Susan A. Gendron  
Commissioner of Education

Enc.



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON  
COMMISSIONER

March 24, 2008

George Joseph, Superintendent  
MSAD 8  
RR 1 Box 112  
Vinalhaven, ME 04863

Dear Superintendent Joseph:

Thank you for your letter dated March 18, 2008 in which you provided an update on the status of the Alternative Plan for the MSAD 8.

I hope that once the Legislature acts on the legislation related to P.L. 2007, Chapter 240, Part XXXX, you will resume work on your alternative plan. Please submit your Alternative Plan Submittal Sheet, Alternative Plan Cover Sheet (checklist), and revised Alternative Plan by Friday, June 13, 2008.

In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns, I encourage you to contact Ray Poulin or Norm Higgins of our Reorganization Team. They may be reached by phone at 624-6802.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Gendron  
Commissioner of Education

# School Administrative District Eight

RR 1 Box 112  
Arcola Lane  
Vinalhaven, ME 04863

tel. (207) 863-4800  
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March 18, 2008

Susan Gendron  
Commissioner of Education  
Maine Department of Education  
23 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

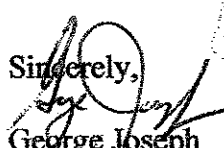
Dear Commissioner Gendron:

Please accept this letter as required, as a status/progress report on MSAD# 8, Vinalhaven's Alternative Plan. With the uncertainty of FY 09 funding and the projected loss of 50% of our Special Education subsidy we are not ready to submit our Alternative Plan at this time.

Presently, it would be irresponsible to imply or project with any certainty what the outcome of our budget development and deliberations will be considering the loss in State revenues, the Island economy and some of the new fiscal demands that we will face in the coming budget year.

Because of the above mentioned issues it is impossible to provide the required assurance ".... that the projected expenditures in FY 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities maintenance will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program" at this time.

Sincerely,

  
George Joseph  
Superintendent of Schools  
SAD 8  
Vinalhaven Island



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON  
COMMISSIONER

September 13, 2007

George K. Joseph, Superintendent  
MSAD 08  
22 Arcola Lane  
Vinalhaven, ME 04863

Dear Superintendent Joseph:

Thank you for the Notice of Intent to submit an Alternative Plan that you submitted on behalf of MSAD 08, received on 7/19/2007 and that is attached here for ease of reference.

I have reviewed the intended action as described in your Notice of Intent and have determined that it does comply with the requirements of the Reorganization Law.

I wish you continued success as you proceed with your work on your Alternative Plan, and invite you to please contact my office if we can assist you with that next step.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Gendron  
Commissioner of Education

## NOTICE OF INTENT

SAU Submitting: MSAD # 8 Vinalhaven

Contact Information: George Joseph

Date Submitted by SAU: July 16, 2007

### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Notice of the SAU's Intent to Submit Reorganization Plan

SAUs included in the proposed RSU: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. ☒ Notice of the SAU's Intent to Submit Alternative Plan

*The alternative plan must address how the SAU will reorganize administrative functions, duties and non-instructional personnel so that the projected expenditures of the SAU in FY 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education and facilities and maintenance will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program.*

### 3. Basis for Alternative Plan

An alternative plan may be submitted only by a unit that is:

- (1) An offshore island;
- (2) A school operated by a tribal school committee pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30, section 6214;
- (3) A school administrative unit that serves more than 2,500 students, or 1,200 students where circumstances justify an exception to the requirement of 2,500 students under XXXX-36, subsection 6, paragraph A, where expansion of the unit would be inconsistent with the policies set forth in Title 20-A, section 1451; or
- (4) A school administrative unit that is designated as an efficient, high-performing district. For purposes of this subparagraph, a school administrative unit is designated an "efficient, high-performing district" if:
  - (a) It contains at least 3 schools identified as "higher performing" in the May 2007 Maine Education Policy Research Institute report "The Identification of Higher and Lower Performing Maine Schools"; and
  - (b) Its reported 2005-2006 per-pupil expenditures for system administration represent less than 4% of its total per-pupil expenditures.

Explain basis for alternative plan:

Island School

### 4. Facilitator (if applicable, if known): \_\_\_\_\_